

From: Alys Hinkle
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/3/02 4:43pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

My personal opinion is that Microsoft is the only software company that provided the public with the tools necessary to use the internet.

Originally all of the software programs written for the computer; with the exception of Apple and the only programs that were written for Apple had to be used on a Apple computer, therefore if you owned anyother brand of computer Apple

software was not compatible; were individual programs, the public had to be a computer wizard or guru to make them fit together, the only way business's could operate was to take individual reports from each software company and put them together by hand, none of the programs integrated. Microsoft's generosity gave the public the tools it needed to use the computer

for all aspects of a business operation, from writing letters, to posting reminders on payments due, to business reports that allowed consolidated financial information available for day to day operations of their business.

At the time Microsoft put together the consolidated computer program that a layman could understand and use, the other computer companies offered only spread sheets, letter writing programs, etc. that an individual had to have the training to put that information together with another report before the information was usable.

I believe Microsoft was a public servant, they refined the reports and programs so that the individual could use them in the manner in which the bookkeeping world had recorded it's information from the beginning.

Microsoft allowed the small business man to gain information perternant to his business with the same speed and accuracy that big business had been able to do, allowing the middle man to operate more competitively.

If the companies bringing the lawsuits against Microsoft had been as wise as Microsoft and offered their reports and information to the public that was usable by the public, before Microsoft they would have gained the same amount of public esteem and been as fortunate as Microsoft.

I feel the suit against Microsoft should be settled, without added penalties, I feel Microsoft has given the people a tool that no one else could deliver, and with their help the economy has benefitted as well as Microsoft.

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